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While this book would be of little service to the practising lawyer, the student and those interested in tracing the historical development of the law will find it very useful. Besides dealing thoroughly with the subject from the historical standpoint, the writer discusses at some length many of the questions which arise upon this topic of the law. Many illustrative cases are cited, often with great fulness. The book is devoted exclusively to the law of England, as the title shows. The arrangement is systematic and the indexing thorough. [The class in Property II. will find in Chapter I. a very good discussion of the origin and growth of the "lost grant theory," in connection with the case of *Angus v. Dalton.*]

THE LAW OF ELECTRICITY. By Seymour D. Thompson, LL.D. pp. xl and 525. Central Law Journal Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1891.

This volume, as the author says in his preface, is an attempt to state and classify the adjudged law applicable to Telegraphs, Telephones, Electric Lights, Electric Railways, and other Electrical Appliances. The growing popularity of the electric current as a means of facilitating travel and communication of all kinds, has necessarily brought with it an endless flow of litigation of an entirely novel character. Though several treatises on the law of telegraph and telephone companies are in existence, no attempt has been made to collect the authorities and state the law in regard to other electrical appliances until now. The book therefore should find favor with the profession. It is also of value as containing the latest authorities on the subject of telegraphs and telephones. The elaborate and detailed table of contents is not the least valuable portion of the book; it covers twenty-one pages, and is a well-arranged and exhaustive summary of the remainder.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. By Joseph J. Darlington, LL.D., of Georgetown University College of Law. Founded on the treatise of Joshua Williams, Esq. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson & Co., 1891. pp. 469.

Mr. Darlington in this work has followed Mr. Williams exactly in the division of the subject, treating it under the same head and arranging the subdivisions in the same order. Modern English statutory provisions and such parts as were of value to English lawyers, but of little value to the bar of this country, have been omitted, and the American law on the subjects treated in the foot-notes of the last edition of Williams, together with many topics not considered at all in that book, is given in the body of the work.

As stated in the preface, "every paragraph, with inconsiderable exceptions, the references in which are exclusively to English authorities, is the unchanged text of Mr. Williams. All paragraphs containing both English and American citations, or the latter only, are wholly new." The chapter on Ships and the one on Patents, Trade-marks, Prints and Labels, and Copyright are entirely new, and both have been carefully prepared. The former is the work of Martin F. Morris, LL.D., Professor of Admiralty in the Law School of the Georgetown University, and the latter was written by Robert G. Dyrenforth, LL.D., late Acting Commissioner of Patents.

The work is a "thoroughly Americanized treatise on the subject of personal property," and, with the standard works of Mr. Williams as a foundation, it cannot fail to be of great value to both students and practitioners.

The work of the publishers is well done.

STUDIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. By Émile Boutmy. Translated from the French, by E. M. Dicey. Macmillan & Co., New York, 1891. 12mo. pp. xi and 183. Price, \$1.75.

The title of this book is misleading. It does not treat of constitutional *law* from the standpoint of a lawyer. It is rather a theoretical discussion of constitutional *government*. The book is made up of three essays. The first contains a discussion of the nature and origin of the English constitution. The second deals with the constitutional government of the United States in the same way. The third is a comparison of the conceptions of sovereignty in France, England, and the United States, as illustrated by their constitutions. The book has no place in a law library as such. To those interested in theoretical as distinguished from practical ideas of government, it will prove interesting. Two editions of the original have already appeared in France.

THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE LAW ANNOTATED. By John Theo. Wentworth. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co., 1891. pp. xxiii and 114.

This little volume is intended, as the preface states, to serve the purpose of conveying to such as are interested in the "act to regulate commerce" a rapid understanding of its practical workings. Each section of the law as amended is followed by short statements, alphabetically arranged, of the points made and constructions given by the Commission relative to the subject-matter of the particular section. Then the volume is completed by copies of the rules and forms adopted by the Commission, a table of cases and subjects, and an index.

This modest attempt to present in a convenient form the Interstate Commerce Law as it stands to-day appears to be carefully worked out. While, except as a foundation upon which to build, the volume can be of little permanent value, since so much of the act still requires judicial construction, yet for a time at least the railway lawyer, rate-maker, and shipper will be likely to find here "a speedy answer to many annoying questions, and a guide to direct him to more elaborate discussion of the subjects upon which light is sought."

BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY. By Henry Campbell Black, M.A., author of treatises on "Judgments," "Tax Titles," "Constitutional Prohibitions," etc. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1891. pp. x and 1253.

The first canon of lexicography relates to substance: A dictionary must be comprehensive; the second, to form: A dictionary must be convenient.

In respect to the first consideration, Mr. Black's dictionary will not satisfy those who look for a fairly complete statement in a law dictionary of the more fundamental and well-settled points of law collected under the words to which they relate. Mr. Black indeed distinctly disavows